

Last Days of Persecution 139

their own forefather-, had instituted, intt they made laws Inr ihmsehcs ari-ttrdin:', in tlu-ir fancy and caprice., and gathered tn-rthrr all kinds uf people in different placc»;

" Kvenlnally, when tuir commands had been published that they should ettntunu 1.1 luniⁱ, established custom, many submitted hum tear, ami many more under the rnmpulsion <»i punishment,

" Hut since the iiiajurity have obstinately held out and we see lhat tln-v ueiher j«ive the guth, tlieir worship and due, m»r yet ,ulur** the (Jtnl uf the Christians, we have taken int*> « mr.idefatium nur unexampled clemency and followed the iii»utji»n <»t the invariable mercifnlne.sH, whirh we *.lu-w in .ill men.

" \Ve h.tve, ihrrrrSurc, tlnMij',ht it best to extend even to lh«",r |ten|.lr »»uv lullr-.i isidnli'.enfj* ami to }{ivt:* them leave once UJMIT t«* be Chirt.ti.ms, and rebuild their merlins;,)•!.»« r-., j«iUN idrd that tht-y tlo nothing contrary to ili-.cij»liue.

" In .uinlh"<r \r\it-f \vf shall make rlear to the magis-tr.Ue-. the « iur.r \vl»n h they shuuld ptirsite.

" In tesutu !•»! «.*Mf indnl^rnrr the Christians will, in tjutv liouticl, i«t.«y tti their t»u«l |nr nur safety, for their own, and tui thai »»l the St,tli\ that so the Stale may eunvwhrrfr br ".ale .uul j<r«i'.|«ei*ins, and that they them-selvt'-i may dwell in -.n nuty in their htmu".,"

Thi'i rxtr;u>riHn.iry rvlu't was

jyaied. ;vt Nicon\tnUa

mi thr la-it tli.y t>l April, 311. It ii us abject a con-fensinn <»f **failure***;H c«nj|d **br** expected from an **Kwpcwr. (Jalrriu** .tdittif*¹. that the iuajc»rity of**